Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 16 Feb 2024 until 23:59 on Saturday 17 Feb 2024

Forecast Issued on Thursday 15 Feb 2024 at 11:38

Confidence: A milder spell of weather for the start of the weekend however low cloud with mist and drizzle are likely to cause poor visibility at times across the Lake District. Confidence is low for exact cloud detail and timings of mist and fog, best to be prepared for poor visibility conditions and wet conditions.

Headline for Friday 16 Feb 2024: A mild day with light rain and drizzle, low cloud and poor visibility conditions at times, perhaps brighter by late afternoon.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 16 Feb 2024

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** No Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Drizzle	Drizzle	Fog	Fog	Mist	Mist	Dull	Dull
Precipitation probability							
20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%

Forecast for Friday 16 Feb 2024

Weather: Light rain and drizzle during the night will continue for a time in the morning, mist and fog patches are likely to prevail early in the day too. Feeling quite mild for February. Gradually becoming brighter as low cloud slowly lifts and visibility improves however it is likely to remain cloudy all day, perhaps one or two sunny spells further east during the late afternoon.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20% improving to 50%, best chance around eastern fells in the afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Poor or very poor visibility early in the day with extensive low cloud layers above 200m, especially in the west. Widespread mist and fog patches will slowly clear during the day but will affect visibility during the morning in particular and poor or very poor visibility should be expected at any time especially around western fell tops. Cloud layers will lift and during the afternoon scattered layers above 400m are likely, northeastern fell tops are the most likely to be clear during the afternoon.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Friday 16 Feb 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	15/18 SW	18/22 SW	20/24 SW	18/22 SW	15/20 W	15/20 W	12/15 SW	10/13 SW	11/14 S
600	9/12 SW	12/17 SW	15/20 SW	13/17 SW	13/17 W	12/17 W	9/13 SW	8/11 SW	9/13 S
300	3/11 SW	5/17 W	6/16 SW	5/15 SW	6/14 W	6/14 W	4/11 W	3/9 SW	4/10 S
Valley	2/9 SW	3/12 W	4/14 SW	5/13 SW	7/14 W	6/13 W	4/10 W	3/6 SW	3/7 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	5/1	3/-2	3/-2	3/-2	4/-1	4/-1	3/-1	3/-0	3/-1
600	6/4	5/1	5/1	5/1	6/2	6/2	5/2	5/2	4/1
300	7/7	7/5	6/5	6/4	7/5	7/6	7/6	6/6	6/5
Valley	8/7	8/7	8/6	8/6	8/6	8/7	8/7	8/7	8/7
Freezing Level*	1600m	1300m	1400m	1500m	1500m	1500m	1400m	1500m	1500m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Feeling mild for February in southwesterly winds at lower levels but still quite fresh on the felltops in rain and with fresh winds during the morning. Any residual snow patches will start to melt over the coming days.

Forecast for Saturday 17 Feb 2024

Weather: Mist and drizzly showers are likely during the morning with a few fog patches too, poor visibility will be a problem at times for walkers during the morning period. A period of heavier rain is likely during the afternoon with strong southerly winds accompanying the rain. Rain continuing into the evening.

Maximum wind: Southerly 15 mph gusting 30 mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20% fell tops mainly affected by low cloud throughout the day.

Low cloud and visibility: Layers of broken cloud above 200m will affect the fells throughout the day, the best chance of higher cloud bases are in the east towards the eastern fells. Visibility will be poor or very poor in mist and drizzle during the morning. Visibility will become moderate during the afternoon in heavier rain but perhaps turning poor at times again.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 13 Celsius
At 800m: Plus 6 Celsius
Freezing level: Above all summits.

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 15 February 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:15 Full report: The thaw at all levels continues – it was a ridiculous (for February) plus 7 degrees C and raining quite heavily on the summit at midday. There is, however, now little snow left to thaw with the vast majority of the Lakeland fells up to, and including, summit level now being free from snow. The snow that remains lies in isolated, insignificant patches above 700m in sheltered spots and hollows with the vast majority now above 900m on steep north and especially steep east facing aspects. As such most of the snow is either not on paths or easily avoidable thus representing little hazard to walkers. Where undisturbed the snow is largely soft, wet and thawing. The only exception to this is where snow has been compacted into hard snow and ice on popular routes; however, even these were thawing today with noticeably fewer such patches compared to Wednesday. The main difficulties encountered today were the slippery nature of wet rocks underfoot, especially when combined with the gusty nature of the wind and the persistent low cloud reducing visibility to around 25m at times. Thus a map and compass together with the ability to use them and navigate competently in poor visibility is essential for anyone heading into the fells. Despite the milder weather, the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) was only hovering around zero at midday, so full winter clothing (waterproofs – which double as windproofs - , extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment, including a torch, are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. Owing to the saturated nature of the ground, anyone heading for the highest fells on Friday should be prepared to encounter ice, in the event that temperatures drop, so microspikes could be a sensible addition to your rucksack. For those attempting the Helvellyn Edges, Striding Edge is now almost snow free with the little remaining easily avoidable and probably all thawed by Friday. Swirral Edge, with careful route choice, can virtually be done without setting foot on snow although some of what remains is icy so care needs to be taken, especially in descent. The main hazard on the edges today, as with similar exposed routes, was again the slippery nature of the bare, wet rock. For those who seek solitude, today was the day! I had the Helvellyn edges and summit totally to myself (albeit together with the rain, low cloud and gusty cross winds along the edges!) so come properly equipped and enjoy!! Temperature: plus 7.5 C, Maximum wind speed 38.1 mph, Wind chill: plus 0.6 C, Average wind speed: 30.7 mph
Issued at: 1138 on Thu 15 Feb 2024

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